

Brentwood Bible Fellowship
Reading thru the New Testament
2017

Week 19
The Gospel of Matthew
Matthew 23-27

Key Verse:

*"Therefore, be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.
Matthew 24:42*

NAS Version

May 8 - May 14

Monday - Matthew 23 Beware of becoming a Pharisee

Tuesday - Matthew 24 The Olivet Discourse - Signs of Christ's Return

Wednesday - Matthew 25 The Olivet Discourse (Cont.) - Keep alert, Be Ready when Christ Returns

Thursday - Matthew 26 The Last Supper, Prayer in the Garden, The Betrayal and Arrest, The Phony Trial, Peter's Denial of Christ

Friday - Matthew 27 Jesus' Crucifixion and Burial

Saturday - Review

Sunday - Review

Questions and comments concerning the daily readings

Matthew 23-27

Week Nineteen

Matthew 23 Beware of becoming a Pharisee

Verse 1 Jesus Audience: The Crowd and His Disciples

1. Matthew 23:2-12 Jesus exposed the Pharisees for who they truly were.

Speaking of the Pharisees, Jesus says to do what they say but do not do what they do. They teach the Law of Moses, so Jesus says to follow the law. He does not advocate civil disobedience.

But Jesus says, do not follow their examples.

What actions and attitude of the scribes and Pharisees in verses 3-12 are to be avoided?

Can you think of any actions of the Pharisees that should be followed?

What should our attitude be according to verses 10-12?

2. Matthew 23:13-36 Eight woes for the Pharisees

List the eight woes.

Is the subject of each woe evident in the same manner today?

Woe 1 Verse 13 _____

Woe 2 Verse 14 _____

Woe 3 Verse 15 _____

Woe 4 Verses 16-22 _____

Woe 5 Verses 23-24 _____

Woe 6 Verses 25-26 _____

Woe 7 Verses 27-28 _____

Woe 8 Verses 29-33 _____

Jesus did not mince words when it came to hypocritical religious leaders. What do you think He would have to say about the religious leaders and practices of the American church?

Verse 34-36 What was Jesus prophecy concerning the leaders of His day? What condemnation would fall on them?

3. Matthew 23:37-39 What is Jesus comment concerning Jerusalem?
 1. What did Jesus condemn Jerusalem of doing?
 2. What opportunity did the inhabitants of Jerusalem miss out on?
 3. What was the spiritual condition of Jerusalem like at that time?
 4. When will their future restoration as a nation take place? (Jesus' prophecy)

Do you think that Christ would treat a gentile nation who turned their back on Him, in the same way He was treating the Jews?

Matthew 24-25 is known as the Olivet Discourse.
(Christ's prophecy concerning Israel's future)

Matthew 24

1. Matthew 24:1-2 The Disciples observation of the temple and Jesus prophecy concerning its coming destruction.

The destruction of Jerusalem took place in AD 70 when the armies of Rome sacked Jerusalem and dismantled the temple.

2. Matthew 24:3 The disciples asked a three-fold question.
 1. When will the temple be destroyed?
 2. What will be the sign of Jesus return?
 3. What will be the sign of the end of the age?

These chapters involve the end of the age before Jesus returns and the involvement of the faithful remnant of Israel at Jesus' return.

(Keep this in context, this is about Israel and not the church. As we can see, Christ is not yet finished with His nation Israel and the capitol, Jerusalem.)

3. Matthew 24:4-14

Verses 4-8 may very well include the first three and one half years of the tribulation and possibly the time leading up to the tribulation.

Verses 9-14 appear to be a description of the last three and one half years of the tribulation.

Remember, the disciples question is in regard to the nation of Israel.

This appears to be a discouraging prophecy, but what is there here which we find to be encouraging?

4. Matthew 24:15-26 The Great Tribulation

The “Abomination of Desolation” is the Anti-Christ. He will enter and desecrate the temple three and one half years into the seven year period of the tribulation. The last three and a half years are known as the great tribulation.

What is Jesus’ admonition for the inhabitants of Jerusalem at that time?

What is Jesus’ warning in verses 23-26?

5. Matthew 24:27-31 At the return of Jesus He will gather His elect, that is, those who were saved during the tribulation.

Describe the return of Christ.

6. Matthew 24:32-35 The parable of the fig tree says when the fig tree buds, summer is near. So, we can surmise, that when the preceding events take place then we can know for certain that the return of Jesus is near.

This generation would most likely mean the generation of Jews living at the time of the fulfillment of the prophecy.

Explain verse 35.

7. Matthew 24:36-41 How will the second coming of Christ be like the days of Noah? Explain.

In verses 40-41 it speaks of two persons working together. One is taken and one is left. Which is taken and which is left?

How does this differ from the catching away of the believers at the rapture in I Thessalonians 4:16-17?

8. Matthew 24:42-44 Why is it essential for the Jews to be on the alert concerning the return of Christ?

9. Matthew 24:45-51

What happens to the slave who is found faithful?

What will happen to the unfaithful slave?

This sounds like a good reason to be diligent to be found faithful at the return of our Lord.

Matthew 25 The Olivet Discourse continued

1. Matthew 25:1-13 The Parable of the Ten Virgins

Explain the parable of the ten virgins. What made five of the virgins wise and five of the virgins foolish?

What principle can we draw from this parable which we can apply to our own lives?

2. Matthew 25:14-30 The Parable of the Talents

A talent was a measurement or weight of money.

I mentioned in church a few weeks ago that a talent was valued at approximately fifteen years of income.

How did the servants differ according to verse 15?

Remember, we are responsible to invest what God entrusts to each of us, not what God has entrusted to someone else.

What was the reward given to the faithful slaves?

What was the outcome for the slave who did not invest the money entrusted to him?

What reason did he give for not investing the talent entrusted to him?

Explain the meaning of verse 29.

Why was the slave who failed to invest his talent called a “wicked” slave in verses 26? Did he do anything we might have called wicked?

This is rather frightening to think of what happened to the slave who simply did not invest what had been entrusted to him. He did not lose what was entrusted to him, he simply did not invest and multiply what had been entrusted to him.

3. Matthew 25:31-46 The Judgement of the Nations, Gentiles, at the return of Christ.

Verses 31-33 The sheep were the righteous and the goats were the unrighteous. This is the separation following the tribulation to determine who will enter the millennial kingdom and who will be set aside for judgement. This is not the Great White Throne Judgement which follows the millennium. (Revelation 20:11 ff.)

Verses 34-40 What was the basis for being on the King's right, the place of honor, following the tribulation?

Brothers of mine would be the title of the Jews during the tribulation.

Verses 41-46 What will be the outcome of those who were judged as guilty in verse 41?

What was the basis of their guilt?

Explain verse 46.

Matthew 26 The Last Supper, The garden in prayer, the betrayal and arrest, the phony trial. Peter's denial of Jesus.

1. Matthew 26:1-2 Jesus once again announces His coming death.

2. Matthew 26:3-5 The Plot to kill Jesus.

3. Matthew 26:6-13 This, in all probability, is the anointing of Jesus by Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus. There is some speculation that Martha may have been the wife of Simon the leper. (See John 12:1-8)

Why were the disciples upset that Mary used the costly perfume to anoint Jesus?

Do you think they would have been upset if the perfume were sold and the money used to purchase a special meal for all of them, or if it were given to them for their use and personal care?

Our motives play a big part in our decision making and even how we judge what others do.

4. Matthew 26:14-16 Judas' plan to betray Jesus.

Notice, Judas action to betray Jesus came immediately after Mary used her perfume to anoint Jesus and Jesus admonished the disciples for misjudging Mary's use of her perfume.

How much do you think Mary's action and Jesus defense of her right to anoint Him motivated Judas to betray Jesus?

5. Matthew 26:17-25

Verses 23-24 Notice, God had a plan, it would be fulfilled, but the man who betrayed Jesus was still responsible for his actions.

6. Matthew 26:26-30 What did Jesus say concerning the bread and the cup? Remember, this took place prior to Jesus crucifixion. Why is this important?

7. Matthew 26:31-35 Jesus told his dedicated, committed disciples that they would all fall away that night.

How do you think you would have responded if you had been in the disciples sandals?

8. Matthew 26:36-46 The Garden of Gethsemane

What principles stand out to you about Jesus' prayers in verses 39 and 42?

How should our prayers be similar to Jesus' prayers?

Why was it important for Peter, James and John to remain awake and pray instead of sleeping? How might that relate to our own prayer times?

9. Matthew 26:47-56 Jesus arrest.

Jesus was betrayed by one of His followers. Peter set out to defend Jesus with his sword. Peter does not seem very cowardly in this incident. Only a short time later he would melt and deny Jesus before a young servant girl.

Did Jesus need Peter to defend Him if he had wanted to escape? Why not?

Why did Jesus say His arrest must happen just the way it was taking place?

Never forget, no matter how dire the situation may seem, God is in control. God is sovereign!!!

10. Matthew 26:57-68

As much as they tried, the men trying Jesus could find no guilt in Him by which to condemn Him.

Finally, Caiaphas, the chief priest, asked Jesus if He was the Christ, the Son of God.

What was Jesus response in verses 64?

What was Caiaphas' response to Jesus answer?

Why was Caiaphas so upset?

11. Matthew 26:69-75 Peter's Denials.

Why do you think Peter denied that he even knew Jesus? He had appeared to be so brave up until this incident.

What was Peter's response when he heard the rooster crow? Why do you think Peter felt such remorse?

Have you ever felt sorrow for failing to share your faith with someone? The opportunity was there to share what it means to put your faith in Christ, but you were silent. How did you feel afterward?

Matthew 27 Jesus Crucifixion and Burial

1. Matthew 27:1-2 Jesus was delivered to Pilate for His official trial. The Jews did not have the right to try Jesus so the night trial was unofficial.

2. Matthew 27:3-10 Judas' regret.

Why did Judas have a change of heart?

What do you think was Judas' motivation to betray Jesus in the first place?

3. Matthew 27:11-26 Jesus before Pilate.

In verse 11, Jesus admitted to being King of the Jews. He had already admitted to Caiaphas that He was the Christ, the Son of God. (Matthew 26:63-64)

In verses 11-14, why didn't Jesus defend Himself against His accusers?

According to verses 13, why was Jesus handed over to Pilate?

Why did Pilate release Barabbas, a known criminal and then hand Jesus over to be crucified? Pilate had said that he found no guilt in Jesus.

Pilate was a politician, not a strong leader. Why is that statement true? Explain.

4. Matthew 27:27-32 Jesus was mocked by the Roman soldiers.

5. Matthew 27:33-54 The crucifixion of Jesus.

Verses 33-44 describe the abuse that Jesus received.

Could Jesus have come down from the cross as they told Him to? Why didn't He?

Verses 45-54 What took place in verse 50? Why was this important?

What is the meaning of the temple veil being torn in half. Why was this even important?

Why were all of the events of verses 51-53 important? Describe what took place in these verses.

What was the response of the Roman Centurion in verse 54? Is it important for us to know this?

6. Matthew 27:55-56 We read of the women followers of Jesus being at the cross, but there is no mention of the disciples being there except for John in John 19. They seem to be noticeably absent, especially when each of them proclaimed to Jesus along with Peter that they would never fall away.

7. Matthew 27:57-60 Jesus is buried.

What can you think of that was significant about Joseph of Arimathea? List everything you can that made Joseph special.

8. Matthew 27:61 Can you think of any reason why it was important for the two Marys in this passage to observe the tomb on the evening when Jesus was buried?

9. Matthew 27:62-66 It has seemed interesting to me that the chief priest remembered Jesus prophecy that He would raise from the dead in three days and his closest followers seemed to forget.

We can thank the Jewish leaders for securing the tomb to help prove that the resurrection was not a hoax, but rather a verifiable historical event.

He is risen! He is risen indeed!